648* edition), Paris, 1911./, p. 9.
175*
654 the name French Syndicate of Upper Laos, which placed a first ship-
/439/ ment of fifteen tons of merchandise at the expedition's disposal.

Pavie set sail again on November 17 for /293/ Bangkok, where he stayed for only two weeks, just long enough to make contact again with our representative in Siam and to reopen negotiations with the Siamese foreign minister, who was specially appointed for the purpose by King Chulalongkorn.

On January 23, 1890 he reached Hanoi and rejoined his old and his new companions (including, among the latter, the embassy attache Lefevre-Pontalis, the vice-consul Lugan, the trader Macey, Professor Counillon, the Postal Commissioner de Coulgeans, the naturalist Le Dantec and the officers Riviere, Friquegnon, de Malglaive, Dugast and Cogniard). He divided them into several groups of operators who scattered on February 3 throughout Tran-Ninh, Cammon and the region of Stung-Treng, while he himself set out for Luang-Prabang with a last group of "fervent disciples," where he arranged to meet all the members of the mission six months later so that they could coordinate their first labors over the winter months.

Duly provided, through the intermediary of Governor General Piquet, with the authority of the king of Cambodia and that of the emperor of Annam for settling questions of frontier delimitation, and with a passport from the Chinese government /294/ which would eventually allow him to explore the Yunnanese frontiers, he first
/624/ went to Muong-Lai where Deo-van-Tri was waiting for him. Faithful to his promise, now that all his brothers had all been freed Cam-Sinh's son awaited his arrival so that he could offer himself to the French authorities, "placing all his pride in giving himself up to that man who had restored calm to his land" (1).

1. Cf. Mission Pavie, "Geographie et Voyages," Vol. II, p. 12.

Pavie had an enchanted voyage. Although the magnificent valley of the Black River no longer held for him the powerful attraction of the unknown, still he felt a profound joy as he daily noted the changes for the better which had occurred since his last trip among
/727/ these peoples. "The influence of Pennequin (who had accompanied
/178/ him with Vacle and Lefevre-Pontalis) was there, clearly marked at each step... no more Flags in the well-known colors, all had

"The story of Auguste Pavie should be placed in the hands of 000
our youth. It is a magnificent lesson in itself. To the ambitious
it shows how far a desire /338/ to learn combined with the passion
for action can lead; to patriots how one can serve one's country;
and to all how an ardent soul can ennoble the most humble tasks
and, springing from the humblest origins, can rise to the most
honored and most envied posts" (1).

1. Quoted by Colonel Friquegnon. Cf. Bulletin de l'Asie francaise, November-December 1925, No. 236, p. 356.

Final organization (1895-1899). The administrative organiza- 631
tion of the new possession had only been sketched out by Pavie dur- 642
ing his hasty descent of the Mekong. It was taken up and completed
by Superior Resident Boulloche, who was sent out on a mission in
May 1895. Laos was first divided into two territories or commands:

1. Upper Laos, with its capital at Luang-Prabang, including all the Muongs of the left bank situated between Yunnan, the British Shan States, Tonkin, Annam and Cammon exclusively, with the exception of the cantons of the Black River and a large part of the Houa-Phans; the first of these latter were attached to Tonkin and the second to the province of Thanh-Hoa (Annam);

2. Lower Laos, with its capital at Khong, formed of all the regions which had formerly been dependencies of the old /339/ kingdom of Vientiane and which were contained between the Annamitic Chain and the Mekong from Cammon to Cambodia.

A superior commandant was placed at the head of each of these 624
divisions, who was directly responsible to the governor general of 635
Indo-China. Each command was then subdivided into provinces or
"commissionerships" (six for Upper Laos, seven for Lower Laos),
each formed of a group of several muongs and headed by "govern-
ment commissioners" who were then given (except in Luang-Prabang)
the most varied duties and the most absolute initiative -- general
administration, police, taxes, public works, justice, public educa- /647/
tion and even, in most cases, medical help.

In 1899 the two circumscriptions were united under the authority 642
of a superior resident (1) with his seat in Savannakhet (shortly there-

1. Cf. decree of the governor general of February 6 and decree of the President of the Republic of April 19.

after in Vientiane), and unified Laos took its place in the Franco-

563 669 deserves full study but would be beyond the scope of the present work, which is strictly limited to an account of historical events.

The mountain tribes of Upper Laos. The mountain tribes of Upper Laos, on the other hand, have been subject to more or less violent unrest during the period 1914-1921.

The Lus of Muong Sing and of the Sip-Song-Panas, as well as the representatives of the many races which inhabit this land with a chaotic relief structure, had previously accepted the establishment of French guardianship without any hostile reaction, for the misdeeds of the Lu chieftain Van-Na-Poum, who was, all in all, only a common bandit who robbed the people by force of arms /356/ and was killed in 1910 by our militia after he had wounded Inspector Nollin, who was sent to arrest him, cannot be regarded as acts of out-and-out rebellion. But in the first months of the World War the Yunnanese frontier, which was well-known to smugglers and brigands, was troubled by a marked recrudescence of outlawry, and suddenly in November 1914 Chinese bands, which were probably encouraged by Annamite agitators in contact with the Germans who had been expelled from Indo-China, broke out in the Muong-Hou and the Houa-Phan, burned the capital at Sam-Neua, at which time Administrator Lambert was massacred, killed Militia Inspector Tuyaa who was sent against them, and spread terror throughout the whole region.

624 669 1. The Muong-Sing incident (1914-1916). Phra-Ong-Kham, the Chao-Fa of Muong-Sing, who was the son and the successor in 1907 of the prince who had spontaneously turned to Auguste Pavie in the past when he wished to escape British domination (1), did not share

1. See above, p. 331.

his father's sentiments with regard to France's representatives. His abuses of his power had gained him vigorous protests on the part of the government commissioner's delegate, and he had sworn to /357/ revenge himself on the latter by -- quite simply -- having him assassinated. His plot was discovered and he fled to China (December 2), from which point he gave active help to the brigands by inciting his subjects to revolt and by propagating false rumors designed to discredit French prestige among the populace.

Even though the latter responded half-heartedly at best to his

urgings, no less than three successive expeditions (the Sourisseau, 624
Friquegnon and Dussault columns) and two years of difficult and 669
costly operations were necessary to restore order and suppress the Yunnanese bands. The deposition of the Chao-Fa -- applicable both to himself and his heirs -- was decreed in April 1916, and the former principality was converted into a simple "muong." Phra-Ong-Kham died in China in 1923, and when his family offered to make its submission it was given permission to return to Muong-Sing.

2. The Meo rebellion (1919-1921). While these events were M
transpiring the Meos, who lived mainly high up on the peaks of 563
Luang-Prabang and Tran-Ninh (1), had maintained a proper atti- 669
L

1. See above, p. 212. 787

tude even though approached by the Chao-Fa and the /358/ Chinese brigands. Nor had they seemed at first to pay any more attention to the movement which their fellows in Tonkin had just initiated in the basin of the upper Black River.

Continuing to live apart from other races in jealous isolation, they had nevertheless seemed for some time past to be moving towards closer terms with the provincial administration, which had succeeded in interesting them in road projects. But in July 1919 one of the leaders of the Tonkin rebellion who was being pursued by our troops and was called Batchay came to seek refuge among them. From this lair he sent out emissaries whose mission it was to devote themselves to secret propaganda efforts among the Meo groupings of Upper Laos in favor of a king who, "accomplishing the will of Heaven, was to bring them happiness, peace and prosperity." The rumor rapidly circulated among these credulous tribes that a prophecy which had fallen from the sky was summoning all Meos to revolt and form a great independent kingdom with its capital at Dien-Bien-Phu or Muong-Heup. To the accompaniment of incantations and magic formulas, the able-bodied population was called to march against the Laotians, Khas and Annamites and to build the palace of the awaited sovereign.

/359/ In vain did the king of Luang-Prabang send messages to L
the Meo leaders in protest against these absurd rumors. Within a M
few weeks armed bands were formed which began to ransom and 563
pillage the villages of Tran-Ninh, Luang-Prabang and the Houa- 669
Phan. Our militia had to occupy the outpost of Muong-Heup, which